



Texas Division of Emergency Management State Situation Report

New Information Is In Blue Text

Event Name	20-0003 COVID-19 2020
Date	December 29, 2020
Time	0900
Operational Period	December 28, 2020 to December 29, 2020
Report Number	285

Region	
Regions Affected	1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6
DDCs Active	DDCs 1, 2, 3, 4A, 4B, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9A, 9B, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16A, 16B, 16C, 16D, 17, 18A, 18B, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24 & Capitol

Current Situation: The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is currently reporting a total of 1,490,479 cases of COVID-19 in the State of Texas which includes an estimated 284,555 active cases. 1,357,576 individuals have recovered from the virus and 26,521 confirmed COVID-19 related fatalities. Across Texas, a total of 13,396,302 COVID-19 molecular tests have been completed.

DSHS is also reporting, Texas has received and distributed a total of 472,100 doses of COVID-19 vaccine, which has been administered to 146,988 people in 246 Texas Counties.

Visit the DSHS COVID-19 Vaccine Information website:
<https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine.aspx>

Visit the Testing Sites Map online for testing locations near you.
<https://www.covidtest.tdem.texas.gov/>

View the Governor's Executive Orders issued:
<https://lrl.texas.gov/legLeaders/governors/displayDocs.cfm?govdoctypeID=5&governorID=45>

The Governor's Report to Open Texas.
<https://open.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Report.pdf>

Texas Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information Page. <https://www.texas.gov/covid19/>

The Governor's Strike Force to Open Texas and a list of guidelines, openings, and relevant dates. <https://open.texas.gov/>

Texas Health and Human Services Family Violence Program.
<https://hhs.texas.gov/services/safety/family-violence-program>

Texas Health and Human Services Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
<https://hhs.texas.gov/services/health/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-covid-19-information-texans/pandemic-ebt-p-ebt-due-covid-19>

Texas Health and Human Services Mental Health and Substance Use Resources.
<https://hhs.texas.gov/services/mental-health-substance-use/mental-health-substance-use-resources>

One Star Foundation, Texas COVID Relief Fund.
<http://onestarfoundation.org/txcovidfund/>

Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Help for Texans.
<https://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/texans.htm>

Essential Services. <https://tdem.texas.gov/essentialservices/>

Help essential workers in Texas locate child care and support child care centers.
<https://frontlinechildcare.texas.gov/>

Special WIC Food Updates. <https://texaswic.org/about-wic/special-wic-food-updates>

Comfort Food Care Packages (CFCP). <https://www.txrestaurant.org/news/comfort-food-care-packages-feed-youth-and-families-need-and-stay-open>

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. <https://www.cms.gov/>

Texas Health and Human Services. <https://hhs.texas.gov/>

Texans in need can apply for benefits, including SNAP and Medicaid.
<https://www.YourTexasBenefits.com>

To apply for unemployment benefits or to request payment
<https://www.twc.texas.gov/jobseekers/unemployment-benefits-services>

On December 28, Governor Abbott and DSHS are alerting nursing facilities to the availability of monoclonal antibody therapies that can be used to treat residents who have been diagnosed with COVID-19.

In a letter sent December 27, DSHS Commissioner John Hellerstedt, MD, urges facility

administrators to work with their medical directors and treating physicians to consider the use of monoclonal antibodies whenever appropriate. These therapeutics have shown promise in reducing hospital admissions for patients who have been diagnosed with the disease, have mild or moderate illness, and are in a high-risk group for developing severe disease.

Texas receives regular allocations of two different monoclonal antibody therapies from the federal government, which can be directed to nursing facilities and other health care settings. Facilities can complete a survey to register their interest in receiving shipments. They can also work with their Health and Human Services Commission regional director or director of survey operations to facilitate more urgent delivery.

On December 22, 2020, Governor Greg Abbott received the COVID-19 vaccine at Ascension-Seton Medical Center in Austin.

On December 18, Governor Abbott held a call with hospital CEOs and representatives across Texas to discuss the importance of COVID-19 therapeutic antibody treatments in the state's fight against COVID-19.

On December 17, Governor Abbott announced that the Texas Division Of Emergency Management (TDEM) has established a COVID-19 therapeutic infusion center in Harlingen to treat outpatient cases of COVID-19.

On December 17, Governor Abbott held a press conference where he provided an update on the statewide COVID-19 vaccine distribution at the UPS Distribution Center in Austin.

On December 14, Governor Abbott visited the White House where he attended a briefing on Operation Warp Speed with Vice President Mike Pence and other state and federal leaders.

On December 11, Governor Abbott announced that the State of Texas will participate in the Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program, a federal program to vaccinate residents and staff of long-term care facilities against COVID-19.

On December 7, Governor Abbott and the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) launched a COVID-19 Rapid Testing Pilot Program for front line workers at Texas small businesses. This program will help small businesses throughout the state conduct rapid tests on employees to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

On December 3, Governor Abbott announced that the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) will provide approximately \$204 million in emergency Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) food benefits for the month of December as the state continues to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On December 2, Governor Abbott announced that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has made an initial allotment of over 1.4 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccines to the State of Texas for the month of December. These vaccines, which should begin arriving in Texas the week of December 14th, will be distributed to qualifying providers across the state who will administer these immunizations based on the Vaccine Distribution Principles developed by the state's Expert Vaccine Allocation Panel.

On November 24, Governor Abbott announced that TDEM has established a bamlanivimab infusion wing at the state-run alternate care site (ACS) in El Paso to treat outpatient cases of COVID-19.

On November 23, Governor Abbott and DSHS announced the guiding principles for Texas' COVID-19 vaccine allocation process, which will serve as a foundation for the state's initial distribution for COVID-19 vaccines expected as early as next month.

Texas will initially allocate COVID-19 vaccines based on the following criteria:

- Protecting health care workers who fill a critical role in caring for and preserving the lives of COVID-19 patients and maintaining the health care infrastructure for all who need it.
- Protecting frontline workers who are at greater risk of contracting COVID-19 due to the nature of their work providing critical services and preserving the economy.
- Protecting vulnerable populations who are at greater risk of severe disease and death if they contract COVID-19.
- Mitigating health inequities due to factors such as demographics, poverty, insurance status and geography.
- Data-driven allocations using the best available scientific evidence and epidemiology at the time, allowing for flexibility for local conditions.
- Geographic diversity through a balanced approach that considers access in urban and rural communities and in affected ZIP codes.
- Transparency through sharing allocations with the public and seeking public feedback.

On November 19, Governor Abbott traveled to Lubbock to hold a briefing with local officials and provide an update on the distribution of bamlanivimab, the Eli Lilly & Company monoclonal antibody therapy for COVID-19.

On November 18, Governor Abbot announced a \$420 million reimbursement program to cover costs incurred by Texas public schools that purchased Wi-Fi hotspots and/or eLearning devices (such as laptops, tablets, and Chromebooks) so students could learn remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic

On November 11, Governor Abbott deployed additional resources to El Paso and Lubbock to help combat COVID-19 in these communities. These resources include medical personnel, medical equipment, personal protective equipment (PPE), mobile testing sites, and more.

On November 10, Governor Abbott announced that the State of Texas has prepared allocation plans to swiftly distribute medicines and vaccines that are now becoming available to treat COVID-19.

On November 6, Governor Abbott announced that the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) has deployed three U.S. Air Force Medical Specialty Teams to assist the state's efforts to combat COVID-19 in El Paso. Governor Abbott also renewed the statewide disaster declaration for COVID-19.

On November 5, Governor Abbott announced that HHSC will provide approximately \$202 million in emergency Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) food benefits for the month of November as the state continues its response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On October 26, as part of the Trump Administration's comprehensive national effort to fight the COVID-19 pandemic and to assist the nation's Governors in doing so, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is sending 8,730,000 state-of-the-art Abbott BinaxNOW COVID-19 point of care antigen tests to the State of Texas.

On October 25, Governor Abbott announced that TDEM is establishing an alternate care site (ACS) in El Paso to expand hospital capacity in the region.

On October 24, Governor Abbott held a call with Dr. Robert Kadlec, the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) at the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS), to discuss hospital capacity needs in the City of El Paso.

On October 22, Governor Abbott announced that DSHS and TDEM are surging additional medical personnel and equipment to the El Paso region to assist with the community's COVID-19 response.

On October 16, Governor Abbott announced that DSHS and TDEM have surged medical personnel, medical supplies, and personal protective equipment (PPE) to the Panhandle and South Plains areas to support hospitals in their COVID-19 response. These resources will be concentrated in hospitals in Amarillo, Lubbock and the surrounding areas.

On October 15, TDEM updated the criteria for a county exemption from the Texas Executive Order GA-29 face-covering requirement. TDEM has promulgated the following criteria for a county exemption from the face-covering requirement of GA-29:

- The county must have 30 or fewer new COVID-19 cases during the previous 14-day period.
- The county judge of a county with 30 or fewer new COVID-19 cases during the previous 14-day period must submit an exemption form affirmatively opting out.
- If a county exceeds 30 new COVID-19 cases during a 14 day period, the county

judge will be notified via email by TDEM, the county name will be removed from this website, and the county will be required to comply with all aspects of GA-29. After a 14 day waiting period, if the county has fewer than 30 new COVID-19 cases during the previous 14 day period, the county judge will be eligible to reapply for exemption. Visit <https://tdem.texas.gov/ga29/> for more details.

On October 14, Governor Abbott, the Texas Education Agency (TEA), and TDEM announced the creation of a COVID-19 Rapid Testing Pilot Program for Texas school systems. This program will help schools conduct rapid tests of district employees and students.

On October 12, Governor Abbott announced that DSHS and TDEM have surged medical personnel and PPE to El Paso to help combat COVID-19 and support hospitals in the region.

On October 9, Governor Abbott announced the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) will receive more than \$20 million in additional federal funding for disaster crisis counseling services for Texans impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

On October 8, Governor Abbott amended the paragraph of Executive Order GA-31 that defines areas with high hospitalizations.

On October 7, Governor Abbott issued an Executive Order to open bars and similar establishments at up to 50% capacity in conjunction with county officials. In hospital regions with low COVID-19 hospitalizations, County Judges will be able to opt their county into opening bars beginning October 14, provided they assist in enforcing health protocols. The Governor's Executive Order also increases the occupancy levels for all business establishments other than bars to 75%.

On October 7, Governor Abbott renewed the State Disaster Declaration for COVID-19.

On October 2, Governor Abbott and HHSC announced \$3.5 million in federal funding for nursing facilities to purchase plexiglass barriers and tents to allow for safe visitation during the COVID-19 pandemic. Nursing facilities may apply for this funding through HHSC beginning October 5, 2020. For more details on how to apply for funding, visit the Texas HHS website.

On September 30, Governor Abbott announced that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is partnering with the State of Texas and local officials to offer temporary COVID-19 surge testing in McLennan County. HHS has allocated 40,000 COVID-19 tests for this effort. Governor Abbott announced that HHSC will provide approximately \$196 million in emergency Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) food benefits for the month of October as the state continues to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On September 25, Governor Abbott announced that Texas' major health insurers have agreed to continue reimbursing network health care providers for telehealth appointments at the same rate which they pay for office visits through the end of 2020. Also, Governor Abbott announced the allocation of over \$171 million in funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act which will primarily be used for targeted rental assistance for Texans at risk of becoming homeless due to eviction.

On September 17, Governor Abbot issued Executive Orders expanding occupancy levels at 75% for restaurants, retail stores, office buildings, manufacturing facilities, gyms and exercise facilities and classes, museums, and libraries, and re-authorizing elective surgeries for a majority of the state of Texas beginning September 21.

Three of the 22 TSAs (S-Victoria, T-Laredo, and V-Lower Rio Grande Valley) must remain at 50% occupancy and continue postponing elective surgeries until the hospitalization metric requirements are met. These three TSAs contain the following counties: Calhoun, DeWitt, Goliad, Jackson, Lavaca, Victoria, Jim Hogg, Webb, Zapata, Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, and Willacy.

On September 7, Governor Abbott issued a proclamation extending his Disaster Declaration for all Texas counties in response to COVID-19.

On August 31, Governor Abbott announced the Texas HHSC will provide approximately \$188 million in emergency SNAP food benefits for the month of September as Texas continues to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On August 21, Governor Abbott issued a statement after the federal government approved nearly \$1.4 billion in initial funds made available through President Trump's Lost Wage Assistance Executive Order.

On August 20, Governor Abbott announced that TEA, in partnership with Local Education Agencies, has procured more than 1 million personal devices and internet WiFi hotspots as part of the State's Operation Connectivity Initiative.

On August 13, Governor Abbott traveled to El Paso to meet with state representatives and local leaders to discuss the community's response to COVID-19.

On August 12, Governor Abbott announced that the U.S. HHS has extended operations for four temporary COVID-19 surge testing sites in Harris County.

On August 11, Governor Abbott traveled to Beaumont and Victoria to hold a briefing with local officials and state representatives on the ongoing COVID-19 response in Jefferson County.

On August 8, Governor Abbott extended his Disaster Declaration for all Texas counties in response to COVID-19. Originally issued on March 13, the Disaster Declaration provides the state a variety of resources to effectively serve Texans.

On August 7, Governor Abbott announced that the U.S. HHS has established four temporary COVID-19 surge testing sites. For hours of operation and registration details, visit www.doineedacovid19test.com.

On August 6, Governor Abbott announced that the Houston Astros and TDEM have teamed up to open a free COVID-19 testing site at Minute Maid Park in Houston. The testing site will be able to process 2,000 tests per day and began operations on Saturday, August 8. Testing will run from 8:00 AM through 4:00 PM seven days per week. To book an appointment and learn more, visit Texas.curativeinc.com.

On August 4, Governor Abbott visited the McAllen Convention Center for the opening of the temporary health care facility which will help increase the Rio Grande Valley's hospital capacity during the COVID-19 pandemic. Governor Abbott also announced that President Trump has extended federal funding for the Texas National Guard's mission to help combat COVID-19 in communities across the state.

On July 31, Governor Abbott held virtual meetings with Mayors, County Judges, Emergency Managers, Hospital Executives, State Legislators, and other local officials from the cities of Laredo and Eagle Pass to discuss ongoing efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19.

On July 24, Governor Abbott and the Texas Military Department (TMD) announced Joint Task Force Texas, a newly formed partnership between the Texas National Guard and Active Duty and Reservists to strengthen COVID-19 response efforts in Texas.

Texas Air National Guard Brig. Gen. Thomas Suelzer, appointed as the dual-status commander, serves as the commander of both Texas National Guard and federal service members.

On July 23, The Office Of The Governor and Guadalupe Zamora, MD, of Zamora Medical Center released a new English-Spanish language public service announcement (PSA) urging communities to work together to protect vulnerable Texans from COVID-19.

On July 22, Governor Abbott announced that the State of Texas will allocate an additional \$118 million in federal funding to support higher education in Texas, including \$93 million to help students continue or restart their progress toward earning a post-secondary credential or degree.

On July 21, Governor Abbott held virtual meetings with mayors, county judges, emergency managers, hospital executives, state legislators, and other local officials from Cameron and Hidalgo Counties to discuss the unified efforts to combat COVID-19 in these communities.

On July 19, Governor Abbott announced that the U.S. Department of Defense has sent five U.S. Navy teams to four locations in South and Southwest Texas to help combat the spread of COVID-19.

On July 17, Governor Abbott, Lieutenant Governor Patrick, House Speaker Bonnen, Senate Finance Committee Chair Nelson, Vice Chair Hinojosa, and House Appropriations Committee Chair Capriglione and Vice Chair Longoria announced that the State of Texas will allocate \$200 million in CARES Act funding to the TEA for the purchase of eLearning devices and home internet solutions to enable remote learning during the COVID-19 pandemic for Texas students that lack connectivity.

On July 15, Governor Abbott announced that his Public Safety Office (PSO) will provide \$41 million in federal funds to assist cities and counties throughout the COVID-19 response.

On July 13, Governor Abbott announced that the U.S. Department of Defense has activated additional U.S. Army Urban Augmentation Medical Task Forces (UAMTF) to assist the state's efforts to combat COVID-19.

On July 10, Governor Abbott extended the COVID-19 Disaster Proclamation to further mitigate the spread of the virus. He also announced that Omnicare, a CVS Health company, is partnering with the State of Texas to provide COVID-19 point of care testing for assisted living facilities and nursing homes throughout the state

On July 9, Governor Abbott issued a Proclamation suspending elective surgeries in hospitals in all counties located within 11 Trauma Service Areas (TSAs) in Texas.

On July 8, Governor Abbott announced that the State of Texas will invest \$57 million in federal funds to maintain the state's need-based financial aid programs and keep more students enrolled at their colleges and universities.

On July 4, Governor Abbott announced that DSHS is distributing 448 cases of the antiviral drug Remdesivir to 157 hospitals across Texas.

On July 2, Governor Abbott issued an Executive Order requiring all Texans to wear a face covering over the nose and mouth in public spaces in counties with 20 or more positive COVID-19 cases, with few exceptions. The Governor also issued a proclamation giving mayors and county judges the ability to impose restrictions on some outdoor gatherings of over ten people, and making it mandatory that, with certain exceptions, people cannot be in groups larger than

ten and must maintain six feet of social distancing from others.

On July 2, Governor Abbott and HHSC announced that \$2.67 billion in federal funding has been approved to support Texas hospitals that provide care for people receiving Medicaid.

On June 30, Governor Abbott and HHSC announced \$9 million in federal funding for nursing facilities to implement infection control. Also, Governor Abbott issued a proclamation suspending elective surgeries at hospitals in Cameron, Hidalgo, Nueces, and Webb counties to help ensure hospital bed availability for COVID-19 patients in these communities.

On June 26, Governor Abbott issued an executive order limiting certain businesses and services as part of the state's effort to contain the spread of COVID-19. Governor Abbott also announced that the federal government has granted his request to extend operations of Community Based Testing Sites across Texas.

On June 25, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission enacted new emergency rules related to health and safety standards for child day care operations. Governor Abbott also issued an Executive Order to ensure hospital bed availability for COVID-19 patients as Texas faces an increase in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations.

On June 24, Governor Abbott announced that TDEM, in partnership with the Texas Military Department (TMD), will begin distributing 3-ply surgical masks to every Texan who undergoes COVID-19 testing at state-run mobile test collection sites.

On June 23, As COVID-19 cases rise in Texas, Governor Abbott has expanded the ability of mayors and county judges to impose restrictions on outdoor gatherings of over 100 people.

On June 16, Governor Abbott and Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs of the University of Texas (UT) System John Zerwas, MD, provided an update on Texas' hospital capacity

On June 11, Governor Abbott extended the Disaster Declaration for all counties in the State of Texas amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

On June 9, Governor Abbott announced that DSHS is distributing additional cases of the antiviral drug Remdesivir to 85 hospitals across 34 counties in Texas.

On June 8, Governor Abbott announced that TDEM is coordinating with local officials, public health officials, and emergency management offices in cities across the state to identify and rapidly expand COVID-19 testing in underserved

and minority communities that have been disproportionately impacted by the virus.

On June 3, Governor Abbott announced the third phase of the State of Texas' plan to safely open the economy while containing the spread of COVID-19. Under Phase III, effective immediately, all businesses in Texas will be able to operate at up to 50% capacity, with very limited exceptions.

On May 27, Governor Abbott and HHSC announced \$3.6 million in funding for nursing facilities to purchase tablets, webcams, and headphones to connect residents with their loved ones during the COVID-19 pandemic.

On May 21, Governor Greg Abbott directed HHSC to expand COVID-19 testing to all patients, residents, and staff at the 23 state-operated inpatient psychiatric hospitals and living centers throughout Texas.

On May 15, Governor Abbott and TDEM announced that local fire departments in Texas are partnering with local public health authorities to provide testing in nursing homes throughout the state.

On May 14, Governor Abbott announced that the Texas National Guard has activated Facilities Disinfection Teams to support Texans in nursing homes and to help limit the spread of COVID-19.

On May 13, Governor Abbott waived license renewal late fees that accrued between March 13 and June 15, 2020 for occupational licenses issued by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR).

On May 12, Governor Abbott announced that HHSC has received approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to provide more than \$1 billion in food benefits through the federal Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program to families with children who have temporarily lost access to free or discounted school meals due to COVID-19-related school closures.

On May 11, Governor Abbott directed HHSC, TDEM, and DSHS to test 100% of residents and staff in Texas nursing homes.

On May 8, Governor Abbott announced that TDEM has applied for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Category B (Emergency Protective Measures) assistance funding to provide financial support to Texas' network of food banks.

On May 6, Governor Abbott announced that HHSC has received \$5.8 million in federal funding to provide crisis counseling services to Texans who have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

On April 30, Governor Abbott announced that TWC has issued new guidance to unemployment claimants concerning their eligibility for unemployment benefits should they choose not to return to work at this time due to COVID-19.

On April 27, Governor Abbott announced the first phase of the State of Texas' ongoing plan to safely and strategically open Texas while minimizing the spread of COVID-19.

On April 23, Governor Abbott announced that Texas A&M Service will provide a series of free online trainings to help local officials understand, acquire, and administer federal assistance available to the state of Texas and municipalities through the Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act and recently passed CARES Act. Governor Abbott also announced that HHSC will receive nearly \$54 million in federal funds to support older Texans and people with disabilities during the COVID-19 response.

On April 22, Governor Abbott temporarily waived certain restrictions to allow Texas higher education institutions to transfer all unexpended student financial aid funds from the Texas College Work-Study (TCWS) program to other financial aid programs that do not have a work- study requirement to ensure students will continue receiving financial assistance.

On April 20, Governor Abbott announced that the Texas National Guard will be mobilizing more than 1,200 personnel as part of COVID-19 mobile testing teams (MTT).

With reports of elevated scams and fraudulent activity preying on the public and consumers disguised as COVID-19 relief and assistance, local, state and federal response includes guidance, investigation, and prosecution. See links below:

- Federal Trade Commission: <https://www.ftc.gov/coronavirus>
- Federal Bureau of Investigation: <https://www.fbi.gov/coronavirus>
- Texas Attorney General: <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov>
- US Attorney's Office: <https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndtx/report-covid-19-fraud>
- Federal Communications Commission: <https://www.fcc.gov/covid-scams>

On April 9, Governor Abbott announced that HHSC has adopted an emergency rule to temporarily allow more nurse aides to serve residents in long-term care facilities during the COVID-19 response.

On April 8, Governor Abbott suspended certain statutes concerning appearance before a notary public to execute a self-proved will, a durable power of attorney, a medical power of attorney, a directive to physician, or an oath of an executor, administrator, or guardian. Governor Abbott also announced that his Public Safety Office (PSO) will provide a one- time emergency waiver of the federally required cash or in-kind match contribution required for the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) and Stop Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) grant funds. Also,

Governor Abbott announced that Texas HHSC will provide more than \$168 million in emergency SNAP food benefits to help Texans during the COVID-19 response.

On April 6, HHSC, Texas WIC, the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children, is expanding the number of food items eligible for purchase through the program.

On April 5, Governor Abbott temporarily waived certain regulations to expand the health care workforce to assist with Texas' COVID-19 response.

On April 3, Governor Abbott held a press conference to provide an update on Texas hospital capacity. Texas has increased by over 140% since March 18.

On April 1, Governor Abbott and TDHCA took initial action to provide tenant-based rental assistance for Texans experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19.

On March 31, Governor Abbott announced the Comfort Food Care Package (CFCP) program to provide meals for at-risk youth and families in communities across Texas as the state responds to COVID-19.

On March 28, Governor Abbott waived certain regulations allowing for an expedited licensing reactivation process for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN) in Texas. The Governor also waived certain licensing renewal regulations for Texas pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and pharmacy technician trainees.

On March 27, Governor Abbott announced the deployment of three National Guard Joint Task Force Brigades. The 72nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, the 56th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, and the 176th Engineer Brigade also Governor Abbott waived certain Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) regulations to preserve and extend child care capacity for front line workers.

On March 25, Governor Abbott released a statement thanking President Trump for issuing a Major Disaster Declaration (DR-4485) for the State of Texas.

On March 23, Governor Abbott sent a letter to President Trump requesting a presidential declaration of a major disaster in Texas based on the continued impact of COVID-19.

Chief Nim Kidd has been designated the Governor's Authorized Representative and State Coordinating Officer, tasked with continuing his coordination with FEMA on all matters related to COVID-19.

On March 20, the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) warned consumers about unauthorized fraudulent coronavirus tests. Governor Abbott also

announced that the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has included the entire state of Texas in its Economic Injury Disaster Declaration and granted access to its Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program.

On March 19, the Commissioner of the Department of State Health Services, Dr. John Hellerstedt, issued a Public Health Disaster Declaration in Texas. Governor Abbott issued a proclamation suspending provisions of the Texas Election Code to allow political subdivisions to postpone their 2020 local elections. Governor Abbott and TEA announced a collaboration with Local Education Agencies (LEA) on the Texas Students Meal Finder Map which will allow Texas parents to locate LEA facilities serving meals in their communities.

On March 17, Governor Abbott waived certain regulations and directed that the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) issue an emergency rule, relating to telemedicine care for patients with state-regulated insurance plans.

On March 14, Governor Abbott, directed the Texas Medical Board (TMB) and the Texas Board of Nursing (TBN) to fast-track the temporary licensing of out-of-state physicians, physician assistants, certain retired physicians, nurses, and other license types to assist in Texas' response to COVID-19.

On March 13, the President of the United States Donald Trump declared that the COVID-19 global pandemic is a national emergency. On the same day, Governor Abbott issued a proclamation certifying that COVID-19 poses an imminent threat in the state and declared a state of disaster for all 254 counties in Texas.

The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) Commissioner Sid Miller announced TDA has been granted flexibility from the federal school meal program to allow Texas schools to continue to provide meals to students even if temporarily closed.

Texas COVID-19 Cases, December 28, 2020

County of Residence	Cases	County of Residence	Cases	County of Residence	Cases	County of Residence	Cases
Anderson	3,500	Donley	126	Kaufman	7,576	Real	193
Andrews	1,361	Duval	788	Kendall	807	Red River	288
Angelina	3,351	Eastland	556	Kenedy	14	Reeves	822
Aransas	544	Ector	6,361	Kent	29	Refugio	412
Archer	459	Edwards	163	Kerr	1,491	Roberts	39
Armstrong	71	El Paso	97,178	Kimble	178	Robertson	680
Atascosa	2,206	Ellis	10,781	King	2	Rockwall	4,797
Austin	903	Erath	2,018	Kinney	138	Runnels	543
Bailey	538	Falls	1,036	Kleberg	1,388	Rusk	1,481
Bandera	425	Fannin	1,527	Knox	132	Sabine	167

County of Residence	Cases	County of Residence	Cases	County of Residence	Cases	County of Residence	Cases
Bastrop	2,844	Fayette	741	La Salle	505	San Augustine	296
Baylor	92	Fisher	212	Lamar	1,859	San Jacinto	278
Bee	2,336	Floyd	234	Lamb	1,287	San Patricio	2,245
Bell	11,802	Foard	39	Lampasas	604	San Saba	338
Bexar	91,865	Fort Bend	30,249	Lavaca	1,515	Schleicher	145
Blanco	227	Franklin	303	Lee	395	Scurry	1,891
Borden	12	Freestone	596	Leon	548	Shackelford	75
Bosque	677	Frio	1,457	Liberty	3,312	Shelby	647
Bowie	2,878	Gaines	1,201	Limestone	1,009	Sherman	97
Brazoria	18,959	Galveston	18,950	Lipscomb	198	Smith	7,056
Brazos	11,441	Garza	179	Live Oak	605	Somervell	392
Brewster	841	Gillespie	1,062	Llano	448	Starr	5,018
Briscoe	49	Glasscock	43	Loving	1	Stephens	363
Brooks	500	Goliad	204	Lubbock	41,034	Sterling	50
Brown	1,226	Gonzales	1,510	Lynn	481	Stonewall	38
Burleson	800	Gray	1,477	Madison	950	Sutton	276
Burnet	1,811	Grayson	6,311	Marion	199	Swisher	334
Caldwell	2,179	Gregg	4,022	Martin	293	Tarrant	120,506
Calhoun	1,105	Grimes	1,605	Mason	174	Taylor	4,785
Callahan	360	Guadalupe	5,712	Matagorda	1,728	Terrell	55
Cameron	28,875	Hale	4,953	Maverick	6,041	Terry	1,311
Camp	559	Hall	179	McCulloch	354	Throckmorton	32
Carson	164	Hamilton	412	McLennan	17,809	Titus	1,977
Cass	860	Hansford	275	McMullen	46	Tom Green	3,921
Castro	566	Hardeman	196	Medina	1,943	Travis	48,424
Chambers	2,627	Hardin	1,858	Menard	135	Trinity	261
Cherokee	1,955	Harris	231,707	Midland	11,195	Tyler	374
Childress	1,140	Harrison	1,388	Milam	825	Upshur	711
Clay	626	Hartley	272	Mills	227	Upton	70
Cochran	186	Haskell	141	Mitchell	455	Uvalde	1,664
Coke	218	Hays	9,175	Montague	1,105	Val Verde	4,120
Coleman	245	Hemphill	308	Montgomery	21,161	Van Zandt	1,425
Collin	41,496	Henderson	2,327	Moore	1,812	Victoria	5,622
Collingsworth	146	Hidalgo	34,827	Morris	336	Walker	5,361
Colorado	880	Hill	1,728	Motley	28	Waller	1,839
Comal	3,860	Hockley	1,648	Nacogdoches	2,320	Ward	516
Comanche	783	Hood	2,533	Navarro	2,344	Washington	1,133

County of Residence	Cases	County of Residence	Cases	County of Residence	Cases	County of Residence	Cases
Concho	135	Hopkins	1,076	Newton	215	Webb	25,875
Cooke	1,868	Houston	593	Nolan	1,132	Wharton	2,162
Coryell	3,193	Howard	2,484	Nueces	20,817	Wheeler	304
Cottle	97	Hudspeth	421	Ochiltree	795	Wichita	9,852
Crane	237	Hunt	3,588	Oldham	72	Wilbarger	1,004
Crockett	299	Hutchinson	824	Orange	3,158	Willacy	1,594
Crosby	214	Irion	32	Palo Pinto	1,531	Williamson	18,568
Culberson	293	Jack	351	Panola	659	Wilson	1,683
Dallam	443	Jackson	987	Parker	6,490	Winkler	372
Dallas	161,278	Jasper	625	Parmer	769	Wise	3,314
Dawson	1,382	Jeff Davis	100	Pecos	1,102	Wood	1,154
DeWitt	1,411	Jefferson	12,984	Polk	1,116	Yoakum	759
Deaf Smith	1,728	Jim Hogg	296	Potter	14,890	Young	1,244
Delta	84	Jim Wells	2,459	Presidio	567	Zapata	819
Denton	30,268	Johnson	9,024	Rains	250	Zavala	809
Dickens	81	Jones	1,811	Randall	13,507	Total	1,490,479
Dimmit	575	Karnes	1,202	Reagan	233		

DSHS will update the state case count each day by 4:00 PM Central Time.

OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES:

1. Protect life and property.
2. Protect vulnerable populations.
3. Support rapid & effective response.
4. Collect and disseminate accurate incident information to improve decision-making.
5. Accurately track incident costs associated with assigned resources for cost recovery.
6. Expand and maximize bed capacity.
7. Develop alternative care sites to support local governments and the health care systems.
8. Acquire supplies/equipment to support health care and testing.
9. Ensure visibility on progression of the disease.
10. Support local governments

Region 1 Situation:

DDC 6 Tyler: (Includes: Anderson, Camp, Cherokee, Gregg, Harrison, Henderson, Marion, Panola, Rains, Rusk, Smith, Upshur, Van Zandt and Wood Counties)

Rusk County: Rusk ISD has closed G.W. Bradford School (grades Pre-K through first grade) due to COVID-19. They will be transitioned to their online training program. The return date is unknown at this time.

Region 3 (Includes DDC's 19,20, 21 and 23)

DDC 20- Corpus Christi

Refugio County: Refugio ISD has gone virtual as of 12/9/20 due to close contact with staff members. The school will restart after Christmas break.

Region 4 (Includes DDCs 8, 9, and 10)

DDC 8 – El Paso (Includes: Brewster, Culberson, El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis and Presidio Counties)

El Paso County: The County Judge issued a Stay at Home/Stay Safe Order on November 25, 2020 for all residents within the incorporated and unincorporated areas of the County, to remain in effect unless otherwise provided in the order, or is modified, rescinded, superseded or amended.

El Paso area hospitals are now receiving Bamlanivimab infusion medication.

[The last Ambulance Strike Team in El Paso is going to be demobilized on December 29, 2020.](#)

RESPONDING STATE AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS REPORTS

Texas Division of Emergency Management Texas A&M University System (TDEM): The State of Texas State Operations Center remains at Readiness Level II Escalated Response Conditions, with Daily Operations staff processing disaster declarations, letters to the Governor, Disaster Summary Outlines, State of Texas Assistance Requests (STARs), as well as severe weather messages, and preparing Snapshots and the state SITREP. The State Management Team (SMT) continues conducting operations in the State Operations Center, working together with activated members of the State's Emergency Management Council. TDEM District Coordinators are working closely with their local emergency management partners and various members of the public health community to assist with unmet needs and resources.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (AgriLife):

DAR Agents are assisting TEEX with preparation and delivery of testing kits for TAMU System Colleges and Chambers of Commerce pilots, and delivery and activation of phones for school testing. DAR agents are providing training to schools for Binax testing. DAR agents from San Antonio and Austin RSA's Pony Expressed Bamlanivimab from Austin DSHS to hospitals in Kerrville and Corsicana the evening of December 19.

Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX): TEEX continues to coordinate operations from the SOC and the 8 IST Resource Staging Areas (RSA) throughout Texas in 11 distribution locations. TEEX currently has [64](#) personnel deployed to support ongoing response activities throughout the state. RELLIS

Campus operating in support of TDEM equipment reconstitution efforts.

Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS): TFS currently has 24 personnel assigned to support the ongoing COVID-19 Response activities. Resources are providing operational, planning, and logistical support to the TDEM at warehouses and at the SOC.

Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC): The TAHC supports assessing Texas animals for COVID-19 testing and tracks testing results: to date, 44 animals in Texas have tested positive for the SARS-CoV-2 virus. TAHC has conducted 78 Animal Assessments.

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ): TCEQ has created a link specific for COVID-19 on our public webpage.
<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/response/covid-19/tceq-preparedness-responsibilities-covid-19>

Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR):

- TDLR continues to update their website's COVID-19 page (<https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/covid19.htm>) with the latest developments affecting their licensees and the public.
- TDLR has extended their agency's current work from home initiative through January 5, 2021.
- A searchable database of all emergency licenses is now available here: <https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/emergency-licenses.htm>
- This extra time is to allow those who are waiting for their license to be renewed by TDLR to continue working with a valid license as TDLR navigates workflow challenges brought on by COVID-19.
- Current license expiration dates will not change, and any late fees accrued will not be waived. All licensees should still renew their licenses in accordance with their regular expiration dates.
- TDLR will not issue printed emergency licenses, and licensees are not required to post or display proof of an emergency license. Anyone needing verification or authorization of an emergency license should be directed to this webpage: <https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/emergency-licenses.htm>
- All TDLR licensees with a renewable license that expired between August 1, 2020 and January 31, 2021 will be considered to hold an emergency license valid for up to 120 days after their expiration date. The TDLR previously adopted an emergency rule granting the emergency licenses on November 23. The original extension involved licenses that expired between August 1 and November 30, 2020. This additional extension was approved by TDLR Executive Director Brian E. Francis.

Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS): DSHS Call Center Activities: [The Call Center has received 31,747 calls and 28,824 emails to date.](#) The Call Center

will operate Monday-Friday from 8:00AM -6:00PM and Saturday-Sunday from 8:00AM – 5:00PM.

Texas Education Agency (TEA): To view TEA support and guidance for school districts regarding COVID-19 please visit <https://tea.texas.gov/texas-schools/safe-and-healthy-schools/coronavirus-covid-19-support-and-guidance>.

COVID-19 Rapid Testing Pilot Program for Texas school systems update: (BinaxNOW School Testing Project)

Number of School Districts/Systems

- 676 school districts/systems have opted in (+4 from 12/17)
- 665 school districts/systems have received their initial allocation (+13 from 12/17)
- 7 school districts/systems have their first delivery scheduled
- 4 school districts/systems are in progress for their first delivery (Notification to responsible RSA and waiting to schedule delivery)
- 130 school districts/systems have received their second allocation
- 2 school districts/systems are in progress for their second delivery (Notification to responsible RSA and waiting to schedule delivery)

Number of Tests*

- 1,261,999 tests have been requested
 - 1,394,500 tests have already been distributed
- *Number distributed will eventually exceed number requested due to delivery of full box quantities

Texas Emergency Medical Task Force (EMTF): EMTF continues to support COVID-19 response in 8 EMTF Regions with 33 personnel across the state.

Texas Military Department (TMD): TMD currently has 307 personnel in support of the COVID-19 Response. TMD General Support Units are staged in Tyler, Dallas, Lubbock, El Paso, San Antonio, Austin, Houston, Corpus Christi, Weslaco, and Midland to implement the TDEM distribution plan to the RSAs/RACs and have distributed 345 pallets. TMD is supporting DDC 8 El Paso with mortuary affairs. TMD has established a call center and battalion HQ to support TDEM and has reached out to 388 facilities. TMD is supporting food bank operations in San Antonio and the Rio Grande Valley and has distributed 739,060 pounds of food.

Texas Public Utilities Commission (PUC): PUC has created a link specific for COVID-19 on our public webpage. <http://www.puc.texas.gov/covid-19/>

Texas Workforce Commission (TWC):
Unemployment Insurance:

- Call centers are open 7 days a week 7:00 AM-7:00 PM.`
- TWC Website, Information for COVID-19 [Frequently Asked Questions](#).
- Expanded the number of people doing pin and password resets.

STATE RESOURCES COMMITTED

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equipment	Status	Location
AgriLife, TAMUS	Specialists/Admin	22		Activated	College Station
AgriLife, TAMUS	SOC Liaison	1		Assigned	SOC/Austin
AgriLife, TAMUS	DAR Extension Agents	15	15	Assigned	Statewide
AgriLife, TAMUS	Incident Support Teams	16	16	Assigned	Regional Advisory Council Areas
TEEX, TAMUS	SOC Liaisons	6		Assigned	Remote SOC/Austin
TEEX, TAMUS	Incident Support Team (IST)	11		Assigned	Austin
TEEX, TAMUS	Incident Support Team (IST)	5		Assigned	Corpus Christi / Weslaco
TEEX, TAMUS	Incident Support Team (IST)	3		Assigned	Dallas
TEEX, TAMUS	Incident Support Team (IST)	5		Assigned	El Paso / Midland
TEEX, TAMUS	Incident Support Team (IST)	17		Assigned	San Antonio
TEEX, TAMUS	Incident Support Team (IST)	5		Assigned	Tyler
TEEX, TAMUS	Incident Support Team (IST)	5		Assigned	Lubbock
TEEX, TAMUS	Incident Support Team (IST)	7		Assigned	Houston
TFS, A&M	ESB/ESF 4 Representative	1		Assigned	SOC/Austin
TFS, A&M	EOC Support	3		Assigned	College Station
TFS, A&M	Logistical Support	6		Assigned	San Antonio Warehouse

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equipment	Status	Location
TFS, A&M	TIFMAS Logistical Support	4	4	Assigned	Grand Prairie
TFS, A&M	TIFMAS Logistical Support	8	8	Assigned	Fort Worth
TFS, A&M	Logistics Section Chief	1		Assigned	SOC/Austin
TFS, A&M	Planning Section Chief	1		Assigned	SOC/Austin
DPS-THP	Liaison	1		Assigned	SOC/Austin
DSHS	Air Medical MIST	2		Assigned	El Paso County
DSHS	Air Medical Strike Teams (x2)	20		Assigned	El Paso County
DSHS	MIST, MTTs & RA-QRF	61		Assigned	Statewide
DSHS	EMTF State Coordinating Office (SCO)	18		Assigned	SOC
DSHS	Angel Med Surge	2,711		Assigned	Statewide
DSHS	Maxim Med Surge	1,313		Assigned	Statewide
DSHS	BCFS Med Surge	7,687		Assigned	Statewide
DSHS	Case Investigators	2		Assigned	PHR 6/5S Hardin Co.
DSHS	Infection Control Practitioner	10		Assigned	Statewide
DSHS	Epidemiologists	37		Assigned	Statewide
DSHS	Data Entry Spec	8		Assigned	Statewide
DSHS	Fatality Management Trailer (FMT) - HPP		16	Assigned	HPPs
DSHS	FMT - DSHS		2	Assigned	Hidalgo & Webb Counties
DSHS	FMT - FEMA		45	Assigned	Bexar, Cameron, Dallas, El Paso, Harris, Hidalgo, Lubbock, Montgomery, Nueces,

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equipment	Status	Location
					Randall, Smith, Starr, Travis Counties
HHSC	SOC Liaison	4		Assigned	SOC/Austin
PUC	SOC Liaison	1		Assigned	Remote
TAHC	SOC Liaison	1		Assigned	Virtual
TAHC	TAHC Staff	1		Assigned	Virtual
TDA	SOC Liaison	1		Assigned	Remote
TDLR	SOC Liaison	1		Assigned	Remote
TEA	SOC Liaison	2		Assigned	Remote
TMD	BN Mission Command	8		Assigned	Austin
TMD	Testing Strike Team	6		Assigned	Austin
TMD	Contact Tracing	9		Assigned	Austin
TMD	RSA-HQ	8		Assigned	San Antonio
TMD	RSA ABIA	4		Assigned	Austin-Bergstrom Int'l Airport
TMD	RAC AUSTIN	11		Assigned	Austin
TMD	RSA Corpus	5		Assigned	Corpus Christi
TMD	RAC Corpus	4		Assigned	Corpus Christi
TMD	RSA-GSU Redbird	10		Assigned	Dallas (Redbird)
TMD	RSA El Paso	10		Assigned	El Paso
TMD	RAC El Paso	2		Assigned	El Paso
TMD	RSA-GSU Lubbock	4		Assigned	Lubbock
TMD	RSA-GSU Lufkin TDEM	2		Assigned	Lufkin
TMD	RSA-GSU Midland	4		Assigned	Midland
TMD	RSA-GSU SA TDEM SSA	15		Assigned	San Antonio
TMD	RSA San Antonio	13		Assigned	San Antonio
TMD	RAC San Antonio	6		Assigned	San Antonio
TMD	RSA/RAC-GSU Tyler	6		Assigned	Tyler
TMD	RAC Tyler	2		Assigned	Tyler
TMD	RSA/RAC-GSU Weslaco	7		Assigned	Weslaco
TMD	RAC Weslaco	8		Assigned	Weslaco
TMD	RSA-GSU Westheimer	6		Assigned	Westheimer
TMD	BN Mission CMD Call Center	4		Assigned	Austin

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equipment	Status	Location
TMD	GSU- Call Center	26		Assigned	Austin
TMD	GSU El Paso-Mortuary	39		Assigned	El Paso
TMD	GSU San Antonio Food Bank	34		Assigned	San Antonio
TMD	GSU RGV Food Bank	34		Activated	Weslaco
TMD	SOC Support Team	20		Assigned	Austin-SOC
TPWD	SOC Liaison	2	2	Assigned	Austin

FINAL COMMENTS: The State Operations Center (SOC) remains at Level II (Escalated Response Conditions). The Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) continues to monitor the situation and will provide additional situation reports as needed.

The four levels of SOC activation are:

Level I (Emergency Conditions)
Level II (Escalated Response
Conditions) Level III (Increased

Readiness Conditions) Level IV
(Normal Conditions)

This Situation Report can also be found on the TDEM webpage at:
<https://tdem.texas.gov/situation-reports/>

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